Closure of Pollution Causing Industries

1160. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued notices to 500 industrial units and 17 major sectors for contravention of the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have prepared another list of 900 units which have also been found for contravention of Environment Protection Act;

(c) if so, the number of units so far responded to the notices;

(d) the details of their offences; and

(e) the action being taken against these units and the time by which a final decision for closure of these units is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d). According to the information provided by the States, there are 3094 large and medium scale polluting units in the 17 major sectors out of which 150 units have not initiated action for complying with the prescribed standards. The State Pollution Control Boards have been advised to issue notices to the recalcitrant units.

(e) 1. An industry operation or process which has commenced production on or before 16th May 1981, and has shown adequate proof of at least commencement of physical work for establishment of facilities to meet the specified standards within a time-bound programme, to the satisfaction of the concerned State Pollution Control Board, shall comply with such standards latest by the 31st day of December 1993.

2. An industry, operation or process which has commended production after the 16th day of May, 1981 but before the 31st day of December, 1991, and has shown adequate proof of at least commencement of physical work for establishment of facilities to meet the specified standards within a time-bound programme, to the satisfaction of the concerned State Pollution Control Board, shall comply with such standards latest by the 31st day of December, 1992.

Smuggling of Sandalwood.

1161. DR. RAJAGOPALAN RIDHARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of sandalwood is on the increase in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether these States have sought assistance from the Union Government to launch a special drive to apprehend sandalwood smugglers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the assistance given to these States by the Union Government during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Smuggling of Sandalwood is not on increase in the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu as informed by those State Governments.